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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1943 No. 42

INDIA IS NOW STRONG

SIR ARCHIBALD WAVELL

During the two years in which I have had the honour to be your Commander, India has faced greater perils from without than at any time in the past two hundred years. Although these dangers have not been entirely removed, they have been held in check and Indian soil has been preserved from enemy invasion

Meanwhile, as a result of your exertions and of victories won by the United Nations in other theatres of war, India has become immeasurably stronger. Substantial reinforcements of both men and supplies, and many squadrons of modern aircraft have been brought to India's shores

The Indian Army, reinforced by troops provided by Indian Princes and by His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal, has grown into a great force equipped with modern weapons and trained in modern war. The Royal Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, both vastly increased in numbers, have rendered notable service beside the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force

The efforts of civilians of all classes in many varied fields of activity have made possible the creation of the large forces which India now disposes. India's war production has grown to great dimensions. A well-organized civil defence organization has been created

India is now strong. If then, all continue with undaunted will to do their duty, there need be no fear for India's safety

Field-Marshal SIR ARCHIBALD WAVELL, late Commander-in-Chief and now Viceroy-designate of India, in a farewell Order of the Day to the armed forces in the India Command on June 28

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WITHOUT SWERVING OR SLACKENING

We were sure of our duty and we have discharged and will discharge it without swerving or slackening to the end. We seek no profit, we want no territory or aggrandisement, we expect no reward, we will accept no compromise. It is on that footing we wish to be judged first in our own consciences and afterwards by posterity.

—MR. CHURCHILL, *in his Guildhall speech on June 30.*

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Mr. Churchill's great tribute to Indian Soldiers

In the vast sub-continent of India, which we trust will presently find full satisfaction within the British Commonwealth of Nations, the martial races and many others have thronged to the Imperial Standard. More than two million have joined the armed forces and have distinguished themselves, in many cases during the fiercest conflicts with the Germans, Italians and the Japanese. All the great countries engaged in this war count their armies by the millions, but the Indian Army has the peculiar characteristic not found in the armies of Britain, the United States, Russia, France or in the armies of our foes in that it is entirely composed of volunteers. Not one has been conscripted or compelled.

—MR. CHURCHILL, *in his Guildhall speech on June 30.*

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Calling All Forces! **Calling All Forces!!**

Watch every week for the **Wednesday Night's Programme**

Last Wednesday, we had quite a nice programme—

"The Match Parade",
"On the Wings of Song",
"Escape to Happiness,"
"Temple Bells", etc.

—And Episode 3 of the "**Huggins Family**"!
Quite an enjoyable programme

Well, tune in to Madras—or Trichinopoly at 10 p.m.

Registered No. M-4345

Madras War Review

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1943 No. 42

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Wavell's Farewell Order of the Day—Reference to Duties as Viceroy

In a farewell Order of the Day to the armed forces of India Command, Field-Marshal Sir ARCHIBALD WAVELL, late Commander-in-Chief and Viceroy-designate of India, has reviewed briefly India's defence position during the past two years and pointed out how India is to-day immeasurably stronger than it was ever before. He has paid a valuable tribute to the services of Indian soldiers and civilians and referred to the great opportunity that has been given to him of rendering further service to India as Viceroy. There is no doubt that in the discharge of the onerous duties he will receive the co-operation and support of the masses of the Indian people.

His appointment as Viceroy has, on the whole, been well received in India. World opinion has hailed it as the best possible one in the present circumstances. This is the first time that a professional soldier has been appointed Viceroy of India—a soldier whose military career dates from the turn of the twentieth century. He has led great armies and conducted large-scale military campaigns, all of them against heavy odds. "There is no man who knows more about the strategy and tactics of present day warfare than Field-Marshal WAVELL and that is obviously a first-rate qualification in a man who is to become the head of the Government of India in 1943," said Mr. J. P. MCGEACHY in a news commentary broadcast from the B.B.C., the other day. "India is at war with the Axis, and waging war will be the first of the duties of the Indian Government until the Axis is defeated. And India will play a vital part in winning the victory as an arsenal and supplier of weapons, as a source of man-power and a base for operations to liberate China and Burma."

* * * *

Perplexing Political Task—Soldiers who have proved good

But the Viceroy-designate must be more than a warrior if he has to achieve complete success. "He has," says the B.B.C. commentator, "a political task before him of great perplexity. It is to unite India, or rather to help the Indians, so far as he can, to achieve unity by their own initiative." He cites the instances of soldiers who have performed exactly this kind of political service. There was GEORGE WASHINGTON in those days, and now we have Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL. The British Premier did not lead an army, but he began his career as a professional soldier, and "his soldierly courage, vivacity and boldness are certainly one source of his strength as the leader of Britain's All-Party Coalition." Field-Marshal WAVELL, says the commentator, has such soldierly virtues. He has also other qualities. His books on the art of war or his *Life of Allenby*, show that he is a brilliant scholar and a bit of a philosopher too. He is one of the few high ranking British officers who can speak Russian. His membership of the Viceroy's Executive Council for the last two years has given him intimate insight into the workings of the Government. He has met leaders of Indian political thought. It may be recalled that, during Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS' visit last year, he took an active part in the conversations about India's political future.

Referring to the great opportunity that lies before the new Viceroy and the Indian leaders, Mr. MCGEACHY says, "Everyone in Britain hopes that, during the term of the new Viceroy, India will arrive at complete autonomy. It is for the Indians themselves to achieve that goal by composing their differences and finding some scheme of Government to which Hindus and Muslims can both subscribe. The great political opportunity of the new Viceroy will be to help to discover this common ground and this compromise. Events will show whether Field-Marshal WAVELL can rise to the occasion, but I think the evidence is that he has the necessary experience of men, breadth of mind, philosophical temper and liberal spirit." The Indian people hope that, under the regime of the new Viceroy, India will see not only the victory of the United nations over the Axis forces, but also the success of the attempts at solving the complex and complicated Indian political problem.

* * * *

The Algiers Agreement—French National Committee and its Object

A solution to the long-standing French political tangle has at last been reached as a result of Allied intervention. *Reuter's* special correspondent in Algiers says that after night-long consultations on June 22, a compromise agreement was reached on the reorganization of the French forces. It involves a division of powers which has satisfied both the French generals. Both General DE GAULLE and General GIRAUD will continue to command their respective armed forces for the present. A joint military committee has been set up with the object of bringing about a fusion of the french land, sea and air forces into a new single army. "With agreement for the fusion of the French Forces," says *Reuter's* special correspondent, "the most difficult hurdle has been surmounted. There may be other difficulties, but none so serious as this. No crisis is now likely to shake the Committee for National Liberation."

Many would have been wondering why the French leaders found it so difficult to arrive at a common understanding earlier. They would have thought that it was merely a question of a clash of personalities, but really it was more than that. The seven patriotic men who gathered in Algiers had to find a solution to a really complex problem. They were actually aware that the arrangements they were making now would largely determine whether liberated France would achieve genuine resurrection, or go down again into confusion and anarchy. It was of vital importance that with their eyes, not on themselves, but on France and the common cause of the United Nations they should agree wisely. And after prolonged discussions of all aspects of the problem of unity, they had agreed on a compromise which would later on develop into a full-fledged unity.

Present situation in France—Four groups of collaborators

The issues that faced them have well been summed up by a special correspondent of the *Times*. "The moment of liberation," he says, "will bring the invidious task of attempting to discriminate between men in every branch of the French administration and economic life, who have been knaves and those who have merely been fools; between those to whom collaboration is a pleasure and a road to power and those to whom it was a reluctant and painful duty mistakenly assumed in a moment of despair."

It may be pointed out that there are four groups of collaborators in France who know they are living under the shadow of the noose, but who are anxious to further their ambition and lust for personal power. First, there is the group which contends that collaboration is morally right. Its leader is DEAT. Then there is the group led by DORIOT which thinks that collaboration is a golden opportunity, if translated into positive action. The third group led by CHARLES MOURRAS, Petain's main support, wants to console itself that it is the penalty of defeat. Lastly, of course there is LAVAL and his group who feel that it is the best bargain in the market at present. LAVAL's satellites occupy all key positions of power and the National Militia and the new "Regiment of France" owe personal allegiance to him. He is the most insidious enemy of the French underground movement for liberation.

Though these groups differ in regard to the basis of their attitude of co-operation and collaboration with the Axis, they are on common ground in their attacks on the institutions and ideals of French democracy. Therefore it is clear that, with these elements interwoven in the political life of France, there is bound to be a civil war in the years to come. What the French leaders who met in Algiers evidently bore in mind during their discussions was the question of elimination of forces of friction, so far at least as they were concerned.

* * * *

Underground movement in France—Resistance centres and Laval

There are visible indications that in France lovers of liberty have organized themselves into strong bands of underground workers for the liberation of their country from Axis tyranny. They have been, now and again, doing all that they possibly can to sabotage the German war effort. To such a great extent have the activities of underground workers spread that the authorities have taken more stringent precautions to suppress them. This has been confirmed by reports from reliable sources. An interesting article from an eye-witness has also appeared in the Swiss paper, *Le Delemont*. The writer states that, in spite of numerous arrests and rough treatment, resistance centres are intensifying their secret propaganda, while the German army of occupation and LAVAL's police are showing exceptional activity. He says:

"In all important centres, as well as in isolated posts along railways, in stations and factories, supervision has been reinforced and the fight against espionage has greatly extended and the arming of soldiers and gendarmes has been completed. Intensive troop movements are also noticeable. For several weeks, the Germans have been transporting soldiers, ammunition, barbed wire and building materials to Bordeaux or the South of France in trucks which are returning to the north."

The correspondent then refers to the effects of *releve* or forced deportation of French labour to Germany. He points out that this has cut all bridges between the French nation and the Vichy regime. PETAIN is hardly being mentioned as it is well known that he has no authority. Nobody criticises him except certain politicians who have developed a special dislike for him. LAVAL has not gained in popularity. On the other hand, the feeling of hatred against him is gaining ground. The correspondent says:

"Resistance of all kinds and outrages certainly continues, but LAVAL's police have disorganized many centres of patriots and discouraged people of goodwill and filled the prisons with thousands of youths, including many regular officers belonging to secret corps of resistance formations. But neither threats of executions nor imprisonments have changed or will change the place of Frenchmen's hearts."

* * * *

Deplorable food situation—A grim picture

The food situation in France is deplorable. Rations are extremely meagre and frequently unobtainable. The correspondent says:

"Some friends of the writer for a whole week ate nothing but some cress, a little meat and some radishes."

The grim picture of general under-nourishment is confirmed by an article in the *Journal de Geneve* from a correspondent. "The worst aspects of the situation," says the correspondent, "are summarized in a terrible sentence in a report from Professor Richet of the Academy of Medicine to the Ministry of Agriculture: 'As a result of under-nourishment 10,000,000 Frenchmen are to-day condemned to slow death.' Transport by rail and road has become practically paralysed. Shops are short of practically every commodity, even of the most indispensable kind."

These quotations give a rough idea of the situation prevailing in France at the present time. There seems to be great discontent and unrest, and these may break all bonds and burst forth into a conflagration when the Allies launch the great offensive against Europe.

CHINS KEEP AN EYE ON THE JAPS

Chin tribesmen, members of the levies at work in the Chin Hills, make a speciality of watching the movements of Japanese in the villages on th plains at the foot of the hills.

"Lying in a secret hide-out on a hillside for hours at a stretch with the British officer commanding the Chin outpost I have seen the Japanese lines," writes an Indian Army Observer.

"I have just watched a Jap come out of a side street by a white temple in a Burmese village. He walked along the main street, then turned off to the right and disappeared."

Several thousand Japs are encamped in the valley but they are unable to move without some watchful Chin seeing them.

"As we lay g zing on the plains we saw many patches of smoke from burning paddy fields. In some parts cattle were grazing. It was difficult to realize that this peaceful plain was the Jap front line containing many hidden, well-armed men.

"To get to the Chin outposts heavily armed guides are necessary to protect visitors against Jap parols and the even more dangerous booby traps laid down by the Chins.

"The Japs have made several attempts to conquer the hills, but every time their casualties have been so larg that they have given up the attempt."

BOSE IN TOKYO—AXIS EXPLOITATION

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SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE is now in Tokyo. He has made, soon after arrival, four broadcasts in three days—in English, German, Hindustani and Bengali. Three of the broadcasts were identical in text—a revealing comment on the remarkable poverty of Axis propaganda! Bose paid a tribute to the "brilliant victories" (in the past) of Japan and praised his hosts. He said, "The forces of the Imperial Japanese Army now stand on the frontier of India . . . The Government of Japan through its worthy Prime Minister, General Tojo, has repeatedly declared its fullest support for Indian Independence." He evidently forgot that the reference to the "Imperial Japanese," for whom he has developed grateful respect, comes with bad grace from one who has been condemning British Imperialism. In the broadcast itself, he said, "British Imperialism will ultimately break, but it will never bend. That is how empires have always behave in the history of mankind."

IT is of interest to note here that when he was in Berlin he held up Germany as the protagonist of India's interests, and now it is the turn of Japan! In a broadcast to the Germans, he expressed great satisfaction at having met "the Fuehrer and other important personalities of new Germany like Foreign Minister von Ribbontrop, Reichsminister Dr. Goebbels, Reichsleiter S. S. Himmler, Reichsleiter Baldur von Schirach and other gentlemen." He also expressed special satisfaction at the food position in Germany. He said, "As I travelled through Europe, I began to realise how utterly untrue was the enemy propaganda which claimed that Germany had robbed other European countries of their food." He evidently forgot the declaration made by Goering that "the German people come before all for food. The whole German army is fed from the occupied countries."

IN the Tokyo broadcast Bose referred to the prospects of Allied invasion of Europe, and said that it was "as remote as the occupation of the moon." In that case one may ask why Axis radios are so busy giving the fullest publicity possible for the arrangements made to defend the Mediterranean coastline.

ANOTHER statement made by Bose was that, "Radio broadcasting has now enabled the people in every corner of the globe to listen to both versions of the story on every point." This is of course true with regard to India and other freedom-loving countries, but not so of Germany and Axis-occupied countries in Europe where listening to the B.B.C. is a capital offence, nor of Japan, now the refuge of Bose, where no one can have short-wave radio sets.

WHATEVER attempts Tokyo might make to exploit Bose's convenient visit to its fullest advantage, the bulk of the people of India will not be misled. They know the antecedents of Bose and how Germany wanted to make use of him to gain her own ends. They know that Bose was put to broadcast in the German propaganda service to India at a time when all German stations were pretending that Bose was not in Germany and trying to locate the mysterious place from which he was making the broadcast. But when the hoax was exposed, they changed their publicity methods. The Indian people also know that, at the time of the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps in April last year, the Axis set up Bose as a counter to Cripps and that they viewed the prospects of any settlement between Britain and India with the greatest disfavour. The Japanese reaction to Cripps's visit was to bomb Vizagapatam and Cocanada. Tokyo said on April 13, 1942: "If India compromises with Britain, a rain of Japanese bombs will cover the land." The Axis satellite Helsinki radio declared: "Cripps's disappointment in India is as great a success to the Tripartite powers as a major military victory." The Indian people also know that the Axis resorted to the shameless stratagem of starting a rumour of Bose's death with the idea of finding out the reactions of Bose's former friends and associates.

NOW Tokyo's attempt to mislead India by using Bose will be attended with no better results than that of Berlin—where, incidentally, Bose was presented with a uniform and a title by Hitler and Mussolini two months ago!

THE WAY TO FINAL VICTORY

By H. V. HODSON

JUST lately our newspapers have been filled with debate about the so called Battle of the Atlantic, the war against the U-boat. It may seem a matter for surprise that we are suddenly becoming alert about a danger—and a problem—that has been with us since the war began, and indeed some people have been inclined to blame the Government for failing to awaken public opinion sooner. But I think that the uprush of public interest in this topic is, as much as anything, because of the victories of the United Nations in other theatres of war. It is the radiance of success that throws our difficulties into shadow.

When the war goes well and people begin to calculate whether we may be within a year or two years of final triump, they look around for traps and obstacles that may delay the end. The U-boat danger is one such snare. So our popular war correspondents and experts argue with each other in the newspapers as to whether more destroyers and corvettes, or more flying boats and more bombers to attack the U-boat bases are most wanted to win the battle of the Atlantic, a battle which, of course, extends far beyond that ocean to every sea lane where our vessels navigate and the enemy may lurk.

Sometimes this debate is warped into the shape of a controversy over sea power versus air power. Then it becomes unreal and misleading; for when the security of our sea traffic is at issue there is no contrast and no conflict between air power and sea power. Sea power is not made up of ships alone, but of every means needed to keep the command of the sea. Ships alone cannot keep that command unless they are served by land bases, which in turn have to be defended and made secure. Nowadays neither the ships themselves nor the bases behind them can be secure without the air arm. So the air arm becomes an essential instrument of sea power, whether it is used to scout for the Navy, or attack the enemy's vessels above and below the water, to fight off his attacks on our ships, or protect the Navy's bases, or to batter the bases of the enemy. It is the objective that counts, not the particular weapons employed.

The aim and object of sea power is the control of the sea and its denial to the enemy. Everything that helps to serve that aim, whether it be naval strength or land strength or air strength, is part of sea power. We shall go wrong if we forget this, for we shall be tempted to take sides between the different elements in sea power and to neglect the vital need to co-ordinate them into a single effort.

THINGS THAT ARE A BLOW AT SEA POWER

Control of the sea, which is the object of sea power, is not the ultimate object if we mean by it merely the ability to sail vessels of war to and fro while the enemy dare not openly do so. We need control of the sea for the ultimate objects of defending our island homes and the shores of our Allies, bringing in the goods that we need to live and fight, and moving our forces across the seas to attack and destroy the enemy. Anything that prevents us from doing these things is a blow at sea power. So the submarine menace means just as much a loss of sea power as would the appearance of an enemy surface navy which could harass and outgun our battle fleet. It is of no purpose that policemen can move unmolested on their beats if ordinary citizens have their bags snatched while the constables are around the corner.

Without sea power—in this wide sense in which the term has always been used by the great experts, from the American Admiral Mahan to the British Admiral Richmond—we could not win the war. By gradual loss of sea power we could lose not only trade and territory but the war itself. The theory of an independent air war, which could by itself bring the enemy to his knees—a theory which had a good many friends between the two wars, especially in Germany and Italy—is now, I think, an exploded myth. To win, we must strike the enemy to the death on his own soil, and to strike we must move . . . by sea.

The history of sea power during this war, then, is vital to our understanding of the way to final victory. In the first ten months of the war the great tasks of British sea power were to scour the Atlantic for the surface and underwater raider and to hold open the sea routes to Allied Europe, including for a short time the coasts of Norway. The Norwegian campaign showed us where the frontier of our sea power then lay: we could move to and from northern Norway so long as we kept a foothold on land, but at serious cost. German sea power bulged northwards and held its ground. In the English Channel our sea power was supreme until the French and Belgian ports were lost. Since the fall of France, convoys of small vessels have navigated on either side of the Channel, and the escape of *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* from Brest to the North Sea last year emphasised that here again was a moving and uncertain frontier of sea power which must be pushed back before victory can be ours.

OPPONENTS OF THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

In the Atlantic during the first ten months of war the great event was the destruction of the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* in the battle of the River Plate. This was the mark and signal of British sea power in that ocean. Since then we have seen *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* pinned down after their earlier Atlantic raids, and unsinkable *Bismarck* triumphantly sunk. The German bomber, which accounted for many valuable ships—such as *Empress of Britain*—in the Western Approaches, has for many months been held in check. It is between our own surface and air force and the enemy's underwater force that the battle of the Atlantic is now chiefly waged.

With the collapse of France and the entry of Italy into the war the face of the struggle for sea power changed. British sea power, at that time unaided by any great naval ally, had to draw back its frontiers and forego any attempt to keep open the Central Mediterranean as a convoy route. Men and supplies for the Middle East—the great bastion of our sea power in the Indian Ocean and the eastern and southern seas—had to go ten thousand miles round the Cape. Ever since, the main theatre of fighting for land forces from Great Britain has actually been much nearer to Australia than to Britain, measured by the route that had to be used. British sea power, backed by the tremendous assets of a secure Indian Ocean, protected this long line of communication with complete success. Besides, it contended so well for the command of the Mediterranean that although it has never been able to keep open a safe channel for shipping through the narrow waist of that sea, it has battered and cowed the Italian fleet, has kept the absolutely invaluable base of Malta fighting fit, and has never allowed the enemy a safe and certain passage even across those narrow central straits.

WHY OUR SEA POWER FAILED AGAINST JAPAN

Then came the war with Japan. British and American sea power, as we always knew, did not extend to Japan's home waters or the China Seas. Within a few weeks we learnt that it no longer extended to the Malay Straits, the century-old stronghold of British sea power in the Far East. Here was a grim example of the point that I made at the beginning—the combination of all arms and all advantages in sea power. For the weakness of Allied sea power in the Far East was not a naval weakness alone, though the drain on the Royal Navy in other theatres and the kick below the belt at the U.S. Navy at Pearl Rarbour did make us week in fighting ships. Our sea power faltered and failed through the failure of two other parts of it: air strength over the Allied base territories of Malaya and Java and over the waters where our sea power was to be exerted, and military strength to hold those base territories against invasion. Japanese sea power, founded to a great extent upon air superiority, displaced Anglo-American sea power north of the New Guinea line.

But as it spread and stretched, while our sea power drew back and concentrated, the sea power of Japan found its frontier, as yet impassable. The battles of Midway and the Coral Sea, the earlier and the latest engagements off Guadalcanal, have been struggles for sea power along this frontier. The fighting in New Guinea by air and land is also part of this struggle for sea power, as is the bombing from Australia of Japanese bases in Rabaul and Timor and the Japanese counter-bombing. The object of all these engagements, whether offensive or defensive, has been the command of the seas approaching Australia and New Zealand.

SIEGE OF AUSTRALIA

Here is one of the titanic battles for sea power that decide for centuries the course of world history. Every weapon is used, every advantage brought to bear—land-based air forces, aircraft carriers, capital ships, escort vessels, transports and supply ships, bases and posts, armies and industries. All these and more on the side of the United Nations are being poured into the

GERMANS CALL IT "GANG WARFARE."—Russian patriots living underground in occupied villages under German domination in Soviet Russia, lose no opportunity to sabotage the German war machine. At one village occupied by the Germans their munitions and tanks were stored in a large granary (which the villagers had taken care to clear as the Germans approached).

One night Russian patriots set fire to the building and soon it was a mass of flames. The Germans managed to salvage only one tank. This picture, just received from a neutral source, bore a German caption which reviled the "gang warfare behind the front" and the "violence" of the sabotours.

Photo shows the burning granary as German troops tried in vain to salvage the contents, and in foreground the one tank which was brought out.

struggle for sea power, which now as ever is vital to the defence of Australia and New Zealand just as it is to ours. Only by driving back the frontier of Japanese sea power and driving forward our own shall we win the war in the East. Only by maintaining our sea power after the war shall we turn the raising of the siege of Australia into permanent security.

Meanwhile the struggle for sea power continues at the other end of the world, along the Atlantic and Arctic supply routes. Here it takes a very different shape: no stupendous battles between rival fleets, but the constant war against the enemy's dark, satanic strength beneath the sea.

The Pacific and the Atlantic for the oceanic Powers among the United Nations are the two vital fronts. In the tropic islands of New Guinea and Guadalcanal and in the cold grey desert of the North Atlantic the peoples of the United Nations should be learning the lessons that tell us how to turn a day of victory into a century of peace. For what gave the world a century of peace after Waterloo was British sea power, and what alone will give us lasting peace after Hitler's Waterloo and Tojo's Trafalgar is the firmly built and strongy held sea power of the United Nations: sea power, not in terms of naval strength alone, but of bases and their hinterlands, of air strength over the seas and over the land bases, of merchant tonnage, of industry and invention, of everything that can help to give this new international brotherhood command of the sea where this is needed to guard its own shores, to keep safe the lines of commerce among its members, and to hem in and quench the fires of aggression.

We who live in islands will neglect those lessons at our deadly peril. (*Broadcast in the BBC's Pacific and North American Services*).

ALTERNATIVE PLANS FOR DEFEATING JAPAN

CONSEQUENT on Mr. Churchill's announcement that the war in the Pacific will be intensified concurrently with the development of the war in the west, speculation persists on the best method of waging war against Japan.

Captain Russell Grenfell, the *Sunday Times* naval correspondent, writes that the drawback to the otherwise sound strategy of concentrating on the overthrow of the European enemy is that it gives Japan time to consolidate the enormous gains of her early aggression. No avoidable delay, therefore, is permissible in the development of the offensive action in the Pacific which will not prejudice the success of operations in Europe.

Witout ruling out other lines of attack against the Japanese, the problem is essentially maritime, one needing the highest attainable integration of sea, land and air power for its principal solution. Timely preparation for the achievement of this integration is, therefore, required, if there is to be the minimum delay in developing the eastern offensive when the European situation permits a major action elsewhere.

There is an impression abroad, the basis for which is not readily apparent, that Japan is specially exposed and vulnerable to bombing. Attu, just captured by the Americans, is 2,000 miles from Tokyo and a foothold in the Kurile islands to the south-west, which would shorten the distance, has yet to be achieved.

In China, enemy occupation keeps the Allied air bases a good thousand miles distant from Japan's home targets. Russian maritime provinces are closer at about 500 miles from Tokyo but Russia's participation against Japan, hitherto withheld, would be open to Japanese military invasion from Manchuria, which by pinching off a strip of territory facing the Japanese islands, would remove the air danger for another 500 miles away. The remaining possibility of attack from aircraft-carriers out at sea receives superficial support from the famous raid projected from the American *Hornet*. But a sustained attack is a different matter from the sporadic, and necessarily indecisive raiding and experience warns us against the use of ships for the former purpose unless and until the enemy fleet has been effectively dealt with—a principle to which shore-based air power adds further force.

While admittedly the Japanese wooden house is easily burnt down, it is easily replaced and most of the industrial and military targets are of modern construction. The bombing of Japan does not, in fact, hold out any special promise.

The principal alternatives are the reopening of the Burma Road with a view to the re-conquest of occupied China, a drive northwards from the Australian base aimed at forcing the Japanese back to their own islands and a combined sea, land and air advance through the Pacific with Japan's sea-borne communications with the Asiatic mainland as its objective. Nearly all the advantages are on the side of the last. It should be very much the quickest way since ocean distances, once a move is made, can be covered very quickly, whereas the bitter fighting in Papua has shown us what a long and laborious task reconquest by large-scale land operations is likely to be.

Again, it holds vastly greater opportunities for mystifying and surprising the enemy, for the islands are legion and garrisons are necessarily limited. It thus places the highest premium on the Anglo-American naval and air superiority while going furthest towards neutralising the value of Japan's millions of soldiers. Severance of her sea communications would mean virtual isolation of her armies in Malaya, Indo-China and the southern islands and eventually her inevitable collapse. Mere development of such a threat would be more than likely to provoke that very desirable occurrence—meeting the Japanese fleet and inflicting a decisive defeat which Japan could not survive.

GHOSTS IN THE CHANCELLERY

By K. R. SRINIVASA IYENGAR, M.A., D.LITT.

MIDNIGHT: a room in Hitler's chancellery in Berlin. Hitler, in full military uniform, is standing at the centre. There is a table to the right on which are displayed the portraits of Mussolini, Tojo, Antoinescu and Laval; likewise there is a table to the left on which are displayed the portraits of Roosevelt, Churchill, Chiang-kai-Shek and Stalin. Hitler alternately gazes, now at one set of portraits, now at another; he is now somewhat haggard and woe-begone in appearance.

HITLER:

(breaking the silence)

The hour of reckoning's come, I must not fail.
Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous,
By drunken prophecies, libels and dreams;
My Stukas oft have hit their ports and towns;
Whole shops of books and scores of churches, all
Are, gone—and yet their mighty hearts endure!
I know not why my mind misgives, alas!
I have not that alacrity of spirit.
Nor cheer of mind that I was wont to have.

Suddenly the spirit of Austria rises between the two tables and dominates the scene: it is like Dolfuss now, anon like Schuschnigg.

SPIRIT:

Let me sit heavy on thy soul tomorrow!
Think how thou stabdst me, marched your armoured cars
O'er my prostrate frame; despair and die.

(vanishes)

The ghost of the late Field-Marshal von Blomberg rises and fixes on Hitler a malignant stare.

SPIRIT:

When I was mortal, my anointed body
By thee was pinched full of deadly holes:
Think of the Polish war and how you got me
Nicely out of the way: despair and die!

(vanishes)

The spirit of Czecho-Slovakia rises; its face is like the late Dr. Masaryk's, but it presently changes into that of Dr. Hacha.

SPIRIT:

Let me sit heavy on thy soul tomorrow!
I, that meant to ill to you or else,
By thy ruthless guile am broken into bits.
Tomorrow in the battle think on me—
On Munich and its bloody aftermath—
Despair and die!

(vanishes)

The spirits of Poland, Norway and Belgium rise, apparitioned like Paderewski, Ibsen and the late King Albert respectively. They stand in a row, and mouth their curses in unison.

SPIRITS:

Let us sit heavy on thy soul tomorrow!
Think of Warsaw's flames despair and die......
Think upon Norway and let thy soul despair......
Think upon Belgium, invaded twice,
And twice ravaged; and so despair and die!

(They vanish)

*The spirit of France rises: the expression on its face changes rapidly** it is Joan of Arc, Clemenceau, Foch and General de Gaulle by turns.*

SPIRIT:

Bloody and guilty, guiltily awake,
And in a bloody battle end thy days.
Vampire of nations, thief of fair Lorraine,
Thou wretched, bloody, and usurping boar,
That spoils our summer fields and fruitful vines,
That loots our far-famed treasures to hawk abroad,
Think of France's wrongs, despair and die!

(vanishes)

The ghost of Captain Roehm rises—his head is bloody but unbowed.

SPIRIT:

Remember the friend who helped you reach this height;
Think how you killed him in his prime of youth
At Munich: I bid thee despair and die!

(vanishes)

The ghost of General von Schleicher now rises and presents its blood-blotched countenance to Hitler.

SPIRIT:

Remember the nightmare "blood-bath" you decreed,
The thousand innocents massacred then;
Dream on my daughter's look when, before her eyes,
My wife and I were felled and done to death.
Let us be lead within thy bosom, Hitler.
And weigh thee down to ruin, shame and death!

(vanishes)

The spirit of Holland rises—its face is not unlike Queen Wilhelminas'.

SPIRIT:

Thy neighbour, hapless neighbour, Netherlands,
That, thanks to thee, was kept in fear always,
Whose mangled body screams through every wound,
Now fills thy days with perturbations.
Tomorrow on the battle think on me,
And fall thy edgeless sword: despair and die!

(vanishes)

During the preceding scene Hitler's countenance has changed frequently. There is utter silence for a few minutes. Hitler makes a supreme effort and finds his speech at last.

HITLER:

They upbraid me, my victims, spectres all!
O coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me!
My conscience hath a thousand several tongues,
And every tongue brings in a several tale,
And every tale condemns me for a villain.
Perjury, perjury, in the high'st degree;
Murder, stern murder, in the direst degree;
All several sins, all us'd in each degree,
Throng to the bar, crying all, 'Guilty, guilty'!
I shall despair: my plans are doomed to fail.
Tunis falls, Bizerta falls; the ghosts
Are everywhere; discontent hourly spreads.
Tomorrow's raging fever brings me death!
Save me, Goering! Save me, Goebbels! Save me!

(rushes out of the room as the curtain falls)

(Suggested by a scene in Shakespeare's *Richard III.*)

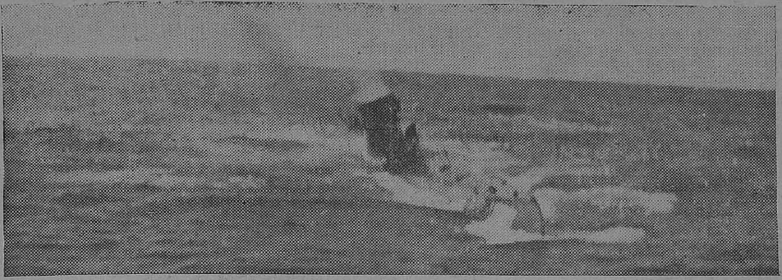
—*Human Affairs.*

"More than a Match" for Italians

A flash of inspiration when our bombers were flying over Italian lines at Jobol Garoi enabled Lance-Naik Em Bahadur of the 9th Gurkha Rifles to escape, says an Indian Army Observer.

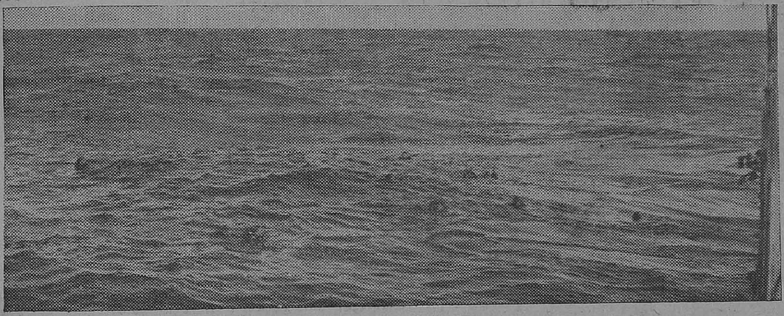
Taken prisoner during the Jobol Garoi attack in April, this year, Em Bahadur was made to do some work on the roads. One night, some of our bombers flew over the enemy lines and the Italians jumped into slit trenches. Em Bahadur quickly lit four matches in succession, allowing them to burn out in the hollow of his hands. Our aircraft spotted the glow and bombs soon fell on the area. Taking advantage of the confusion, Em Bahadur ran away amidst the curses of the panicky Italians. Without the aid of compass and map, he made his way to our lines and arrived among the Fighting French.

REMORSELESS U-BOAT HUNT IN THE ATLANTIC

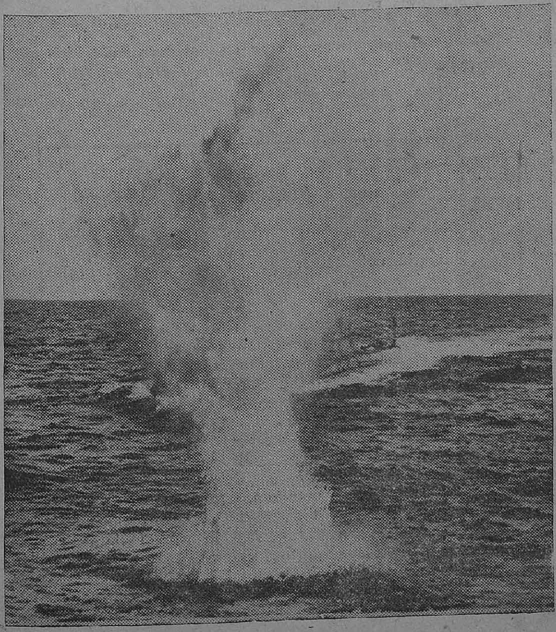


FREE FRENCH CORVETTE SINKS TWO U-BOATS.—This picture was taken by the crew of the Free French Corvette F.F.S. ACONIT during the Atlantic convoy battle on March 10 when she sank two German U-Boats by gun-fire and ramming. H.M.S. HARVESTER who had just been torpedoed herself watched from the water the ACONIT ram her second submarine.

Photo shows: After the "Cease fire" the ACONIT's second submarine heels over while the ACONIT steams in to ram.



The ACONIT steamed to a British port with survivors from H.M.S. HARVESTER and an American merchantman and prisoners from her two U boats. Photo shows: German survivors swimming towards the ACONIT after she had sunk their U-boats.



NAZI U-BOAT MEETS ITS DOOM IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC.—A Nazi U-boat met its doom within a few minutes of its being sighted by a Canadian corvette in the North Atlantic After a fierce gun duel followed by a frantic crash-dive the U-boat was finished off with depth bombs. Photo shows: Shell-fire from the corvette sends a great geyser of water into the air as it falls short of the Nazi U-boat (seen in the background) *during the gun duel between submarine and Canadian corvette in the North Atlantic. Depth bombs later finished off the U-boat which attempted to escape by crash-diving.*

FOREIGN WORKERS IN GERMANY

POTENTIAL DANGER TO THE STATE

THE potential danger to the German State arising from the presence there of 5,000,000 foreign workers conscripted from all parts of Europe is strikingly shown in an article in the Swedish newspaper *Arbetet*, writes the *Daily Telegraph* diplomatic correspondent.

The German people, says the writer, are anxiously asking themselves what part these foreigners will play when the collapse comes which is now expected by most Germans or if a rebellion against National Socialism begins.

The writer, who has made a tour of Germany lasting several weeks, says that despite the close watch kept, it is not possible to prevent sabotage. This, just lately, "has increased to an extent which it is impossible to imagine outside Germany."

From the German viewpoint, it is considered far more dangerous that there are many political germ carriers among the millions of foreign workers. It is not necessary to talk long to a German industrial leader to realise that the great influx of labour has also irritated the labour market.

The Ukrainian workers stand up to their employers in an organised body. They insist on their rights and show an *esprit de corps* which gives their employers great trouble. To strike openly is too dangerous a method and is hardly ever used but canny tactics are often followed by the eastern workers.

Attempts to crush this policy are met with the argument: "If we work faster, we risk mistakes which may be considered as sabotage".

Managements are often compelled to yield to this argument. The fact that German workers are using the same method to show solidarity with their colleagues has played an important part.

Industrial circles think that they can detect a tendency on the part of German workers to form a common front with the foreigners when it is a question of conflict with authorities. The performance of all foreigners falls catastrophically after every German setback.

SOFTENING INVASION POINTS

By LIEUT.-GEN. SIR DOUGLAS BROWNRIGG

THE word "lull" is seen too often at the present time. The Oxford Dictionary gives the following definition—"soothe or send to sleep by sounds or caresses".

I hardly think the residents of the Ruhr or of the Italian islands and the mainland would subscribe to the suitability of that definition for what they are experiencing day and night as Allied bombers make their never ceasing sorties.

It is true that the victors of North Africa and for that matter other armies in the Middle East, have not yet made contact with the land forces of their enemies across the Mediterranean; but it is well to remember that the older fighting services are hampered by the difficulties from which their youngest partner is free.

Napoleon referred to deserts, mountains and rivers as three obstacles to military movement and none of these has any appreciable effect on aerial warfare.

Attacks by air across the Mediterranean are only limited by the position of aerodromes on the northern shores of Africa, by the efficiency of the machines and by the skill of their crews. But land and sea invasions are dependent on the provision of shipping and on embarkation facilities at one end and of disembarkation possibilities at the other.

It is natural, therefore, that the arm which is unhampered by terrestrial difficulties should use the time at its disposal to continue what has come to be known as the "softening" process whilst land and sea forces below make ready for the second move.

Air attacks on an ever mounting scale go on whilst shipping and stores are collected at invasion ports and harbours; but I go so far as to say that even if the ships were already collected, even if the troops and stores were already on board, it would be no waste of time to await the enemy's reaction to persistent air attacks before launching the invasion barges.

For an air attack goes out and return in a few hours. Even if one attack fails another can immediately be sent out to redress the balance. But once a land and sea invasion starts on a big scale, there is no withdrawal without grievous casualties and a dreadful loss of prestige.

I know that Gallipoli may be cited as an example when an invasion was called off without any of the consequences which were feared would result. That is true—but the evacuation from Gallipoli occurred before air power came into its own. This sort of thing would not happen to-day. If it could von Arnim would now be happily commanding some new formation in Germany instead of languishing in a British prison.

When an invasion starts, it must go right through; as Lord Trenchard pointed out the other day, it is persistent air attacks preceding a land invasion which will keep down casualties on the appalling scale of big attacks in the last war. Our losses in air crews are grievous; but every airman lost has saved the lives perhaps of a dozen sailors and soldiers.

BUILDING LIFE AFRESH

By E. MINDLIN

THE town has been cleared of the Germans. A meeting of the town Soviet was held in a half-ruined house. What is most essential now? Life has to be built afresh. The town is in need of window panes, nails, books, medicines and flour; it needs builders, teachers, doctors and bakers; but the liberated town has to have doctors before anything else. Many of the inhabitants—victims of German despotism—are sick and starved.

Water supply has been cut; the water in the reservoirs is foul with corpses; sewerage is out of order. The first task is to prevent any possible epidemic. The town is full of sick, hungry orphans and children. Their parents have either been killed or are missing. The Russian population was deprived of all medical aid during the German occupation. The liberated town is returning to normal life. A telegram was received at the Commissariat of Public Health saying, "Urgently request despatch of doctors, nurses and medicines".

Telegrams of a like nature come from all the liberated towns of the Northern Caucasus, Don, Kursk, Orlov and Voronezh regions.

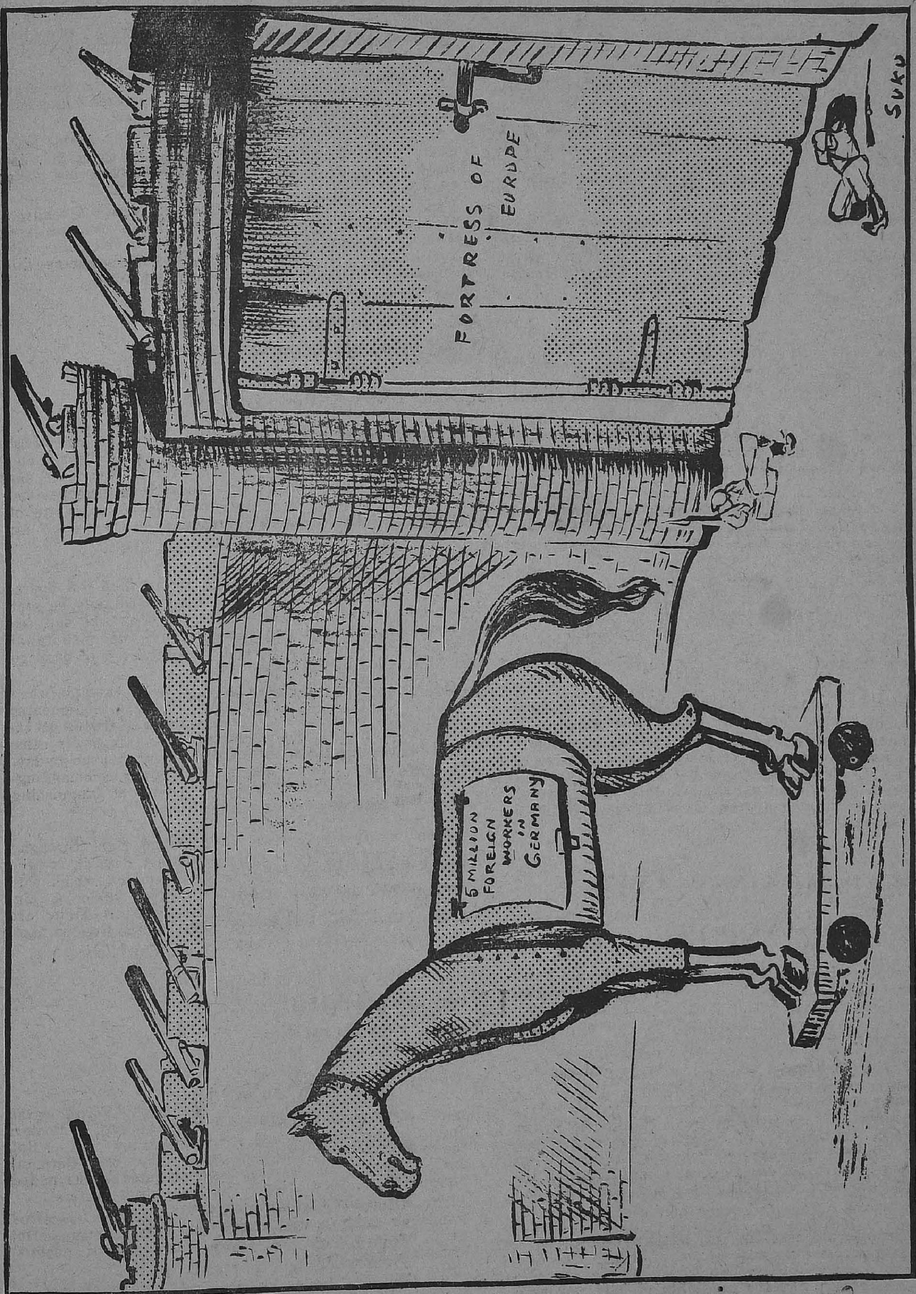
MEDICINES STOLEN

But did not Rostov, Kursk, Voronezh, Voroshilograd and dozens of other towns have their own staff of doctors and supply of medicines? Of course they did. But the medicines have all been stolen by the Germans and the doctors have either been executed or have fled from Hitlerite persecution. The town needs doctors.

The Commissariat of Public Health has received numerous such requests, but the same Commissariat daily receives dozens of offers from doctors, doctors' assistants and nurses.

"I want to work in the liberated town or village."

We saw the correspondence of the Commissariat for one day only. There were letters from various parts of the country. Doctors, nurses and doctors' assistants were offering their services. Each is willing to leave his permanent place of abode, his home, his place of work. All know that they will have to put up with many privations, but they want to do their share in the restoration of normal life in the liberated regions. The Commissariat of Public Heallth has already despatched hundreds and thousands of doctors to the liberated regions.



THE TROJAN HORSE

GERMANY'S DEFENSIVE POLICY

By MAJOR-GENERAL SIR CHARLES GWYNN

GENERAL Diettmar's announcement that Germany has adopted a defensive policy and has no intention of conducting a major offensive this year may be accepted since it is consistent with the general war situation. For some time, it has been evident that it would be desperate gamble for Germany to attempt in Russia an offensive aimed at decisive results.

The disaster in Tunisia which left a gap which must be filled and the growing rate of destruction of war industries by the Allied air offensive were sufficient to daunt the most confirmed gambler, quite apart from unforceable developments which might follow an Allied invasion of Europe.

The Germans may still have in Russia sufficient forces to achieve initial success but unless the results obtained were on an inconceivably rapid and decisive scale, they would be faced with the probability of having to continue a costly and exhausting struggle with ever dwindling resources. The losses and the dispersed commitments of the Luftwaffe are of themselves almost sufficient to negative a prolonged effort.

The defensive policy does not, however, exclude offensive operations with defensive objects and if the shape of the present front in Russia appeared to demand them in order to shorten the line and render it more defensible. Why such operations have not already been started is an intriguing question since it seemed that they would have had the best chance of success if undertaken before the Russians had recovered from their winter efforts and had consolidated their hold on the recaptured country.

There is, of course, the possibility, perhaps probability, that the Germans may still have limited offensive projects in view but have not yet been able to accumulate reserves on an adequate scale in consequence of their heavy losses in their winter demands made by the North African campaign on their reserves and the reduced rate of output of their war industries due to the Allied air offensive. Whatever the reasons for the German inaction may be, the probability in the meantime grows that the Russians will after all be the first to strike for the prolonged lull must have greatly eased their problems.

It now seems possible that the Russians did not make very much use in the winter of British and American tanks and mechanized transport because their clearance was insufficient for the snow conditions. If this is so, there must be a large reserve of Allied material available for use in the summer and that in turn should give opportunities for building up reserves of Russian vehicles for use next winter.

WAR AGAINST AXIS TRANSPORT

ONE important if unspectacular element in the air war against Germany is the Allied offensive against transport and communications. This goes on almost uninterruptedly and will play an essential part in ensuring ultimate victory.

In continuing to hammer away at railways and canals of Germany and German-occupied countries, the Allies are pursuing an essentially sound strategy. One of Hitler's mistakes was to concentrate during the pre-war years on the development of motor highways at the expense of the German railway system.

Now under the stress of war, he finds his magnificent roads comparatively useless since he has only limited supplies of petrol. The inadequacy of his railways and rolling stock, which our air offensives have thrown in sharp relief, largely counteracts the theoretical advantage of his much vaunted "interior lines."

That is one reason why the possibility of land war on two fronts has always been a bugbear of the German General Staff. As the threat of invasion in the west draws nearer, the good work done by the Allied bombers and intruders will reap its long-deferred reward. It will effect eventually a stranglehold upon communications which may throw the enemy's strategy seriously out of gear. Every locomotive shot up from the air over Holland or Northern France appreciably weakens his capacity to resist.—*News Chronicle.*

Litany from the Edge of the Ditch

["If the blind lead the blind, shall they not both fall into the ditch?"]

From foul brutality
From trim rascality
From proud insanity
From blindfold vanity
From vile iniquity
From heart's obliquity
From bad divinity
From asininity
Good Lord deliver us!

When Nazis stamp and Fascists kick
And jackboot-heels and handcuffs click
And Quislings bow and spittle lick
Good Lord deliver us!

When party leaders sell their land
For pride of heart or itch of hand
And wag their tongues to plough the sand
Good Lord deliver us!

When blinkered eyes are all the rage
And fools set up to act the sage
Or strut with stilts upon the stage
Good Lord deliver us!

When mountebanks at will dispose
Of followers led by ignorant nose
To think dung sweeter than the rose
Good Lord deliver us!

Where politician joins with priest
To hurry to the rich man's feast
And poorer men are squeezed and fleeced
Good Lord deliver us!

Where calumny attacks the few
Who still their decent duty do
And keep their faith and temper too
Good Lord deliver us!

Where saintly souls bid us invite
A tiger as a guest polite
And talk away his appetite
Good Lord deliver us!

When half the world in bondage lies
Beneath heart-sickening cruelties
And heroes only 'sympathize'
Good Lord deliver us!

From cowards and disgraces
From idiots with smooth faces
From hid or open treason
From malice and unreason
From rapine and oppression
From villainous aggression
And most from those perverse ones
Who'd change small ills for worse ones
Deliver us, Good Lord!

—*R.G.*

DELIVERED FROM THE NAZI INVADERS.—As the Nazis retreat before the Soviet advance they pillage and burn everything that they can lay hands on. All food is confiscated and villages are left to starve until the advancing Red troops can bring up their food supplies. Photo shows a little Russian girl found by Red Army men after they drove the Nazi invaders from her village, being fed by the men who delivered her and her people from the enemy.

ALLIED BOMB "EXPORTS" TO GERMANY

FOR the first time since the war began, German people at home and German soldiers in dugouts and garrison towns of the occupied areas of Russia are going through a common experience, cables the *Daily Telegraph's* Moscow correspondent.

The Allied air offensive in the west has been coupled with air attacks of growing intensity from the east. The Russians are giving more publicity to the Allied offensive than to their own, and newspapers give full details and analyses of every aspect of the offensive, praising its scope and the skill of Allied pilots.

The other day the *Red Star* had a cartoon showing the growing tonnage of Allied "bomb exports" to Germany. Soviet air operations are of twofold significance—defensive and offensive. Russian fighters are tirelessly and daringly interfering with the Luftwaffe's attempts to bomb Soviet objectives, such as the approaches to Moscow or the city of Leningrad.

Although major operations have not yet begun on land and in the air, the war is as intense as anything during the battles of Voronezh and Stalingrad last year.

Guerillas behind the enemy lines are working to the same end as the Soviet air offensive by blasting roads, wrecking trains and stripping telephone lines. They are also watching German troop movements and passing word to the Russian bomber squadrons specializing in attacks on troop trains.

Guerillas transmit their information by radio installations captured from the Germans, or flown into Russia. They also report results of bombing operations.

A great bulk of the Russian bombers are Soviet-made, but British and American planes arriving along the northern route and through the Persian Gulf are already making themselves felt. So also the latest Soviet bomber Iliushin-4 which has two engines and resembles the famous Stormovik.

The new bomber is described by the *Red Star* as usable with great effect in any weather at any time of the day or night. It operates primarily over railway stations, munition dumps and barracks, causing havoc wherever it passes. One raid on an enemy barrack brought death to 1,500 Germans.

LAMPEDUSA HAS A LONG HISTORY

LAMPEDUSA followed the example of Pantelleria. It is a small island in the Mediterranean, and is reached by a steamer from Porto Empedocle. Its greatest length is about seven miles and its greatest width about two miles. The highest point is 400 feet above sea-level.

The island is about 90 miles from the eastern coast of Tunisia, and has an interesting history.

There are prehistoric hut-foundations, also Punic tombs and Roman buildings near its harbour. The island is the Lopadusa of Strabo, and the Lipadosa of "Ariosto's Orlando Furioso", the scene of the landing of Roger of Sicily and of his conversion with the hermit. In 1436 it was given by Alfonso of Aragon to Don Giovanni de Caro, baron of Montechiaro.

A thousand slaves were taken from its population in 1530. In 1661, Ferdinand Tommasi, its then owner, received the title of Prince from Charles II of Spain.

In 1737 the Earl of Sandwitch found only one inhabitant upon it; in 1760 some French settlers established themselves there.

Catherine II of Russia proposed to buy it as a Russian naval station, and the British Government thought of doing the same if Napoleon had seized Malta.

In 1843 on wards Ferdinand II of Naples established a colony there. There is now an Italian penal colony.

Eight miles west is the islet of Lampione. Linosa, some 30 miles to the north-north-east, measures about 2 by 2 miles, and is entirely volcanic; its highest point is 610 feet above sea-level. It has landing places on the south and west and is more fertile than Lampedusa, but suffers from lack of springs. Fragments of Roman pottery and Roman coins have been found there, but cisterns and ruins of houses are probably later.

ANATOMY

"And what kind of officer does your uniform signify?" asked the inquisitive old lady at a reception.

"I am a naval surgeon, lady."

"Goodness me," was the response, "how you doctors to specialize in these modern times."

GERMAN HOME FRONT: FOUR FACTORS

THE frontline Hitler has become the homefront Hitler now, cables the Stockholm correspondent of the *Daily Express.* Reports coming up here, he adds, say that the Fuehrer, who always used to declare that his duties with his soldiers prevented his leaving his headquarters on the Eastern Front, is now spending increasingly long periods at his Berchtesgaden home.

According to these reports, Hitler has more and more been leaving the general direction of military matters to his Wehrmacht chiefs, especially Field Marshal von Manstin. Hitler himself apparently spends an increasing amount of time reading reports on home morale, supplied by Party leaders all over Germany and reviewing measures which Himmler and Goebbels are taking to insulate his citizens against any shocks that may come.

CHANGED VIEWPOINT

Hitherto despite some depression and grousing, there seems to have been no sign that German morale has been disastrously shaken even by Tunisia or by increased air raids but four things are specially worrying the Fuehrer.

Firstly, the growing respect which German troops are now expressing for the Russians as fighting men and technicians. Ever since the Germans invaded Russia, Nazi propaganda has talked of Soviets scornfully as "sub-men" (untermenschen), but this propaganda has been made to look more ridiculous with every defeat which the "sub-men" have inflicted on the German "supermen" soldiers.

NAZI PAPER'S COMMENT

Steps are already being taken to meet this changed viewpoint and the latest issue of the journal of the Black Guard *Das Schwarze Korps,* for instance, devotes the whole front page to a condemnation of "those people who talk about the marvellous technical ability of the Bolsheviks". The paper says: "Such people declare that 'those so-called sub-men are wonderfully healthy. They resist hunger and cold in a way we cannot conceive of. They have no nerves and are splendid tools for their leaders'."

To these doubters, the paper explains that it is only because the Germans are not used to the Russian climate that the Bolsheviks are better at bearing the rigours of war in that part of the world than they are.

PARTY DISSENSIONS

Secondly, there is the growing dissension within the ranks of the Nazi Party itself. It is this dissension which lies behind both the artilce of Count Reischach condemning "fortune-hunters who are a menace in times of war" and the recent speech by Gauleiter Wagner demanding intensification of the struggle against faint-hearted Nazis.

Thirdly, the anxieties among war production workers, especially about British air raids. It was this growing disaffection among the German workers which caused Goebbels to stage the recent meeting at the Sportspalast in Berlin. There he and the Reichsminister Speer assured representatives from factories all over the Reich that production had not been affected by air raids and that the British would be paid back for the damage they had done to Germany.

And fourthly, the rising prices. Hitler knows that the Germans fear inflation. The other day, the German Price Commissioner, Dr. Fischboeck, spoke at a Berlin conference strongly condemning those who used war as an excuse for raising prices. "We shall use every means to fight these men," he said.

Dr. GOEBBELS' PROPAGANDA ANTICS

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN

AFTER a lightning visit to Germany, lasting only a fortnight in all, Frants von Papen, the German Ambassador to Turkey, has returned. Indeed a very busy trip for Herr von Papen, who was officially supposed to relax, a trip on which he had to stand in front of his beloved Fuehrer and give an account for his recent diplomatic failures.

Before he left, von Papen went to see the Turkish Foreign Minister, Numan Menemendjoglu, and as is his habit, he asked for a series of guarantees and assurances. He never fails to ask for these, every time he goes home. But home he went, empty-handed, as usual.

This time he asked for a supplementary guarantee that Turkey would not attack Bulgaria, should the latter become involved in a conflict with the Allies in the event of the latter landing in the Balkans. He was told that there already exists a non-aggression pact between Turkey and Bulgaria and that if Bulgaria keeps her word, there is no reason why Turkey should become involved in an armed conflict with Bulgaria. Von Papen naturally nodded assent and came back to his favourite theme: a separate peace with Britain.

CAN GERMANY KEEP A TREATY?

Again he produced the Bolshevik bogey from his pocket and asked the Foreign Minister if it would not be better for the Anglo-American world to make peace with Germany and then march jointly against Russia. He thought that Turkey would gain a lot in mediating such a peace. He was told that there is no reason why Turkey should do so, especially after the Casablanca meeting during which United Nations policy was pretty well defined.

It is said that the Turkish Foreign Minister then reminded von Papen that he himself knows very well that it is Germany who is to blame for creating this intransigence. For who is certain that Germany would and can keep a treaty and not violate it after a few years? Von Papen smiled, a little drily, it is reported, and, after taking his leave, departed for Germany. This should put an effective end to any German propaganda about a separate peace.

German propaganda is not content to leave matters where they are and is continually busy to find out new things. The latest German propaganda find shows clearly that we are now approaching the humour page of Goebbels' propaganda book. You have also heard about it: the invasion of Great Britain in the coming summer with 200 divisions and 10,000 planes and I do not know how many tens of thousands of tanks.

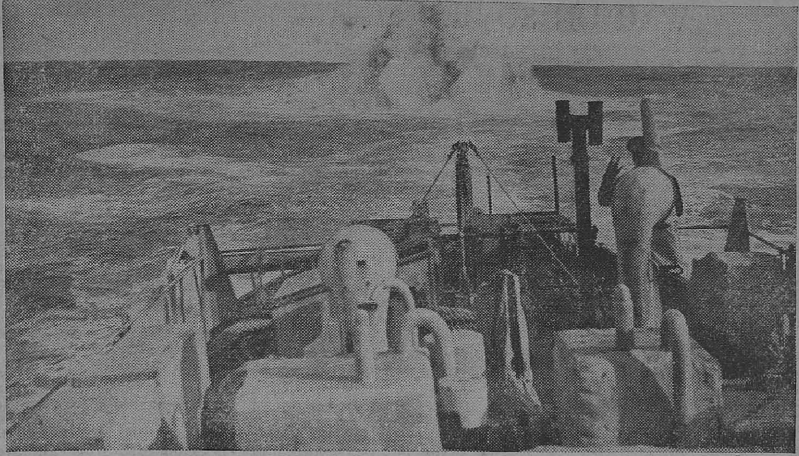
GERMAN TIT-BITS FOR TURKISH PRESS

The Turkish Press shouted with laughter because it has been a very long time since tit-bits like these have been dished up on editors' desks. So all the newspapers pounced on it and in the true festive spirit made the most of this choice morsel. After laying bare the ridicule of it all, the papers asked one serious question: Why is it that Germany did not invade Britain in 1940?

In asking this question some of the editors, and I mean those who visited Germany last year, had their tongues in their cheeks, for was it not Goebbels who replied last year to a journalist asking if Germany was not afraid of the United Nations invading Europe, with the following? "We who were much stronger in 1940 than the Allies are now did not want to risk on a hazardous adventure. We are so well defended now that the Allies will not dare do what we have not done when we were in a better position to do it."

So last year Dr. Goebbels said that Germany although well armed did not think an invasion of Britain more than an adventure. Dr. Goebbels seems to have forgotten what he told the Turks and now he spreads rumours of a German invasion of Britain. Dr. Goebbels has no memory but the Turkish Press has.

This is an indication of the contortionism in propaganda Dr. Goebbels is forced to by the present situation. Propaganda was effective when there were tanks and planes behind it, when a "film of frightfulness" shown to audiences that knew nothing about warfare succeeded in intimidating Governments and also Kings. Today it is just what the word implies, nothing but propaganda. Dr. Goebbels is having a difficult time.



FREE FRENCH CORVETTE SINKS TWO U-BOATS DURING ATLANTIC CONVOY.—Photographs taken by the crew of the Free French corvette ACONIT, during the Atlantic convoy battle on March 10 when she sank two German U-boats by gunfire, and ramming. H. M. S. HARVESTER, who had just been torpedoed herself, watched from the water the ACONIT ram her second submarine. The ACONIT steamed to a British port with survivors from H M.S. HARVESTER and an American merchantman and prisoners from her two U-boats. Photo shows: The ACONIT depth-charging her second U-boat.

THE SOVIET AIR FORCE

RUSSIANS, GREAT ORGANIZERS AND STRATEGISTS

By OLIVER STEWART

STRATEGICAL **and tactical** genius of a high order has been displayed by the Russian Command. And equally obviously their methods call for the closest study. The way they have used air power, in particular, is instructive—and it is noteworthy because it is always difficult to develop air power to the fullest extent in winter.

The Russians in all their planning have had to visualise immense land battles. And so their use of air power has been influenced by that central fact. The primary duty for their pilots has always been to support the land forces. The methods have been enterprising. We can piece some of them together from the official communiqués. It seems that the general principle on which the Royal Air Force works is accepted by the Russians: that is that fighters are used to keep certain zones clear while the bombers do their jobs. Direct escort is not used except where it is unavoidable.

In the selection of bombing targets, however, the Russians, as would be expected from those locked in a terrific struggle for territory, go much more for things that have an immediate effect on the progress of the land battle. They are not keen on long-range strategic bombing—though they have done some—and their close-support bombing is very close indeed. In fact, successful attacks on enemy tank formations appear almost as frequently as any other kind of operation. The fighters by covering sweeps, keep the air clear enough of enemy fighters for the bombers to go in low and do their work. In these low-level attacks dive bombers have been used a lot, but so have cannon-carrying machines.

In fact, the way the Russians have developed all kinds of air attack on tanks, guns, transport columns and similar targets is one of the outstanding things about the air war there. They have done a tremendous amount of work on this kind of thing. It has entailed the introduction of some new weapons: large-calibre aircraft guns, self-propelled bombs, and the like. And it has also entailed the provision of special protection for the low-flying aircraft.

RAMMING AS A PRACTICAL EMERGENCY MANŒUVRE

Then their actual methods of fighting have been remarkable. Mostly they have used similar formations and tactics to the Royal Air Force; but they have also introduced ramming as a practical, emergency manœuvre. They have used this method—according to their statements—a fairly large number of times, and usually it has been possible for the pilot who has rammed an enemy machine with his own machine to get down safely by parachute or even sometimes in his own damaged aircraft. Before the Russians came into the war I do not think that ramming had ever been considered as a serious tactical manœuvre. Captain Nesterov is the officer who is said to have introduced it.

Then they have done some long-range strategical bombing. They have bombed Berlin and other places well inside Germany with their large multi-engined aircraft. But, as I have said, they have devoted most of their air effort to the immediate vicinity of the battlefield.

The evidence now is that the Soviet Air Force is large, well equipped, and well trained. It looks as if it was as big as the German air force at the outbreak of war, and it seems to have maintained a sound balance ever since.

Three outstanding types of Soviet aircraft—and I am trying as much as possible to stick to information coming from an officer of the Soviet Air Force—are the Stormovik drive-bombers, the T.B. 7 four-engined bomber, and the M.I.G. 3 fighter.

REMARKABLE STORMOVIK

The Stormovik is heavily armed and armoured, and it is this machine that has been used for carrying self-propelled bomb. It has sliding armour plate to protect the radiator and engine and it carries two 32 mm. cannon in the wings as well as two 13 mm. machine guns. It was designed by Ilyushin, and is sometimes called the I.L. 2. It has been most successful as an anti-tank weapon. The general design is straightforward and there is a single engine.

The big four-engined T.B. 7 bomber was seen in England at the time of M. Molotov's visit and it attracted favourable comment from Royal Air Force men who saw it.

As for the M.I.G. 3 fighter, this is an extremely small machine and the pilot sits far back along the fuselage. Incidentally, the Russians paint these machines white during the winter as camouflage.

Russia also has a number of British and American aircraft. The Hurricane has been out there for a long time and is liked by the Soviet pilots. The Airacobra and the Tomahawk are among the American single-seaters. Lately some fine looking twin-engined medium bombers have been coming into service with the Soviet forces. Some of them are developments of the earlier types; but some appear to be new machines.

The Soviet Air Force is divided up into five air armies, four of them engaged with the Germans. The Russian claim is to have put out of action two thousand enemy aircraft since the beginning of the offensive in November. **November.**

WAR ON SOVIET FRONT

By G. KOLMANYAN

MILITARY operations on the Soviet-German front during the past few days were confined, except for the battles in the Kuban, to air-combats which were developing on a large scale.

Russian bombers continue to inflict blows on the German rear. Kiev, Smolensk, Bryansk, Mogilov, Orel and other towns have been bombed. A particularly heavy raid was launched against Orel. Five hundred and twenty planes bombarded the enemy railway installations, ammunition trains and dumps.

The most important air-battle was fought over Kursk. During the first attack on Kursk on May 22, German bombers came in waves at very short intervals. They appeared from different directions and at various altitudes. The battle continued for 10 hours and ended in the loss of 162 German machines. Our losses were 27 planes.

In the course of this battle, Soviet fighters succeeded in isolating German escort planes from bombers, and inflicted heavy losses on the latter. When it became evident that the raid launched from various directions had ended in failure, the German Command sent a formation of 100 bombers. But only some machines could break through to the town. German pilots were forced to release their loads from an altitude of 6,000 metres which rendered accurate bombing impossible.

German losses were nearly one-third of the number of machines participating in the raid.

WAR LOAN SUCCESS

Moscow Radio has broadcast information about the release of the War Loan of 1943. The new loan issued totals 12,000,000,000 rubles. It is the largest loan ever issued in the country.

Judging from the information received, the loan is a great success. Towards the evening of June 4 nearly all workers, engineers and employees had subscribed to the loan at the offices of factories in Moscow, Leningrad, Gorki, Sverdlovsk and other towns. The subscriptions of many patriots exceed their monthly earnings. Many are paying their sums in full and refusing to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the Government of paying the sums in instalments.

The loan is also being realized successfully among the peasants. Many peasants have purchased loans to the extent of 25,000 rubles. There is every reason to believe that the sums subscribed by peasants this year will exceed the subscriptions of 1942.

SOVIET ARABIC SCHOLARS

A meeting of Soviet Arabic Scholars, convened by the Institute of Languages of Peoples in the U.S.S.R., was held in Moscow. Many Soviet scientists are engaged in the study of the culture, history and language of the Arabs. The Arabic language is the foundation on which the Muslim culture of many peoples of Middle Asia, the Caucasus and Tataria is built. In Tadjikistan, for example, near Bukhara, and also in Uzbekistan reside descendants of the Arabs transferred to these places by Tamerlane. In several places near the Caspian Sea, the local population speaks the ancient Arabic language.

Scientists said at the meeting that while the inhabitants of Arabia know the ancient Arabic language through old works and classics, several people of the Soviet Daghestan speak and write the language, and have preserved the ancient Arabic traditions.

The Russian academician Ignati Krachkovski, an outstanding Soviet Arabic scholar, stated that, despite the war, Soviet Arabic scholars continue their scientific work. During the war has been published "Syntax of Modern Arabic Language" in Leningrad composed by L. Semenov. Many other works are ready for publication—among them is a dictionary of the modern Arabic language by K. Baranov.

A large number of works of Arabic scholars of Leningrad was saved from destruction by German bombs. The Arabic scholars residing in Leningrad are continuing their researches.

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

THE First Lord of the Admiralty was able to give to Parliament recently an encouraging report on the progress in a campaign which exceeds all others in importance —the war on U-boats—writes *The Times*.

In May, according to Mr. Alexander's statement, the number of U-boats destroyed seems to have been actually greater than the number brought into service by the enemy. Losses in merchant shipping have correspondingly declined; and the fall was emphatically not due, as the enemy propaganda has alleged, to a diminution in the amount of Allied shipping at sea offering fewer targets for U-boats, since imports into this country since April gave the highest monthly total during the last year and a half. These satisfactory results are the fruit of a substantial increase in the strength of convoy escorts, including escort carriers.

A result of the fall in shipping losses, compared with the steadily rising output of new shipping on both sides of the Atlantic, has been a large increase in the volume of shipping available to the Allies—a very welcome development in view of the stage in war, which is now being reached. But Mr. Alexander wisely refrained from venturing upon prophecy. That a turn for the better has been manifested in the battle of the seas in the last few months is highly satisfactory in itself but it is not more than the beginning. That or a higher level of success is to be maintained for many months before U-boats can be regarded as definitely mastered, and the First Lord of the Admiralty was careful to warn the country that full ascendancy has not yet been achieved and that we must still be prepared to encounter setbacks and further periods of heavy losses.

The growth of the U-boat fleet has indeed been checked partly by bombing the factories and bases but chiefly by more "kills" at sea, and it should not be over-optimistic to expect that check to be maintained henceforth. The enemy, however, has still some 400 or more U-boats in service, even without a single addition to them, and that great underwater fleet would still have to be defeated decisively before the full command of the sea could be assured. There can be no diversion of resources yet from the vital battle of the seas.

SONGS AND MUSIC OF THE SOVIET

Many people have wondered what kind of music is now being played and sung in Soviet Russia. They will soon be able to gratify their curiosity, for two enterprising recording companies have issued several records of contemporary Russian music. These records, which will be available overseas, have been made in Russia by Soviet artists. The Russians, like the Welsh, are a naturally musical people and they produce some of the most splendid voices in the world. Anyone who has ever heard a Russian choir will be eager to hear the Red Banner Troupe singing topical marching songs—songs that are all the more stirring and poignant when one thinks of the circumstances in which they are being sung to-day. The Red Banner Ensemble, a favourite of the U.S.S.R. Fighting Services, has popularised Soviet songs throughout Russia. Its conductor, Professor Alexandrov, has earned the highest honour an artist can now attain in the Soviet Union —"People's Artist of the U.S.S.R." It is said that one learns more of a nation from its songs than from its laws. These records of Soviet opera, marching songs and folk songs will convey to many people, more vividly than any words, the spirit of the vast and varied country now united under the emblem of the hammer and the sickle.

I WAS A TEACHER IN MOSCOW

By DEANA LEVIN

I first went to Moscow in 1933 and got a job as a teacher in the Anglo-American school there.

But I don't want to tell you just about my school. You know, I think, so many people have got the wrong impression of the present-day Soviet Union—impressions formed on what it was like, say, twenty years ago. I don't think you can count the first ten years of its existence—it was only war and famine then. But to-day it is very different.

AIMING AT TEN-YEAR SCHOOL

Soviet schools are of one type—the seven-year school, which is free and compulsory for all children from eight to fifteen. They are co-educational, and the boys and girls take the same subjects. The aim of the Soviet is eventually to have a ten-year school, when there are enough buildings and teachers to go round.

One of the biggest problems of Soviet education has been to get enough trained teachers. At the time of the Revolution there were very few teachers indeed, and in those early days anybody who had any kind of education at all was asked to volunteer for the teaching profession. These people have been working steadily all through these years, and in a way, of course, they have become qualified by their own experience.

But in 1937 the Soviet Government passed a decree stating that all teachers must become fully qualified according to present-day standards. In Moscow alone it was found that about forty per cent of the teachers were unqualified: from that you can get some idea of the problem to be tackled.

These unqualified people were given a chance of taking a special course for a year at the same salary, or of attending an evening institute for two years. If they didn't do one or the other they had to stop teaching.

The Soviet is trying to open teachers' training colleges in every district; but Russia is such a huge territory and there are so many people that the demand is much greater than the supply. There are still too few specialists to go round, and naturally there are more in the large cities than outside. Though every national republic has its own training scheme carried on in its own language—in those centres Russian is only taught as a second language—the general aim is to provide adequate training colleges and to endeavour to produce enough specialists to cover the whole country.

To-day there are comparatively few illiterate children in the Soviet. I knew an Englishman who was engaged on tea-planting work in Georgia. He was travelling over the mountains in his car, and he stopped at some remote village. He started talking to the people and when he saw a number of children he asked whether they went to school. He had been told that every village, however small, however remote, had its school; and when on this occasion he was told: 'No, there is no school,' he said: 'Ah, at last I've caught you out. Look at all those children.' And then his chauffeur said: 'But they go to school over there,' and he pointed towards a mountain. 'But how do they get there?' 'By bus,' was the reply. It turned out that in the summer a bus took them to school every day, but in the winter months, when they are snowed up, the children lived in the school and carried on with their schooling as usual.

The standard of literacy among the adult population up to the age of forty-five or fifty is very good; but there are still many people over fifty who are illiterate, except that they can sign their own names and some of them can laboriously read newspapers and books.

STUDENT OF FIFTY-FIVE

The charwoman in our school was a typical example. She was about fifty-five and had lived in village up to the time of the Revolution. She was attending evening school, which was run by one of our teachers specially for the domestic workers on our staff. And she had reached the third class, which was about two classes below her youngest child. Her five children were very proud of her indeed, and they thought she was wonderful because at fifty-five years old she was learning not only to read and write but history and geography. She was quite a typical example. People everywhere are so interested in what is going on that they want to be able to read and write, and so they are willing and eager to go to school. Everywhere you will find this tremendous desire for learning.

It was usual, I should say, before 1925, for the younger members of the family to teach their grandfather and grandmother to read and write, and I'm told you would quite often see the whole family sitting round the table studying, the children of from twelve to fifteen helping the elder members of the family. And prior to 1925 it was quite common to see the children and their parents sitting on the same bench at school studying together.

U.S. AIRMEN WHO FOILED JAPANESE.—Three airmen of the U.S. Army Air Force in the China-Burma-India theatre congratulate each other on a daring exploit. Lieut. Melvin Kimball (centre) *shakes hands with Capt. Charles Colwell, who spotted Kimball's plane behind the Japanese lines after Kimball was forced down on a flight from India to China. Colwell, who was returning from a strafing mission in Burma, radioed for help and then circled above the spot until other U.S. airmen arrived to form a protective covering while Lieut. Ira M. Sussky* (left) *landed in a light training plane and brought Kimball to safety. Nine attempts were made to take off from the soft ground before the plane with its two passengers finally got away. Lieut. Sussky holds an axe with which he smashed Kimball's plane to prevent its use by the enemy.*

But that period has passed now, and when I was there the attitude was: 'Now we have reached the point where we can get on without the aid of the children; we will let the children enjoy their childhood and we will not burden them with the responsibility of their fathers and grandfathers.' But, now that war has come things have altered again, and the children have been helping with the agricultural work and collection of scrap metal and doing other war jobs.

FREE MEDICAL ATTENTION

The Soviet Government carefully studied the educational systems of other countries to get new and improved ideas, and because of their interest in what is going on in the rest of the world they have gradually been able to raise the standard of their own teaching and training to much the same as in our own country.

Every school has a full-time doctor as a member of the staff and all medical services are free in the Soviet Union. The children are given every care to make them strong and healthy.

But their production of text-books, for example, was far below our own—the paper is very poor, and the type used was not at all good. But I must say that I have seen text-books published since 1938 which have impressed me very much; but even so they're not yet comparable with ours, less so with the Americans. That is something the Russians are still trying to achieve, and I remember when I came back to England in 1936 for a short holiday they begged me to bring back some text-books to help them; these went into their research department to be examined to see in what respect they could help in improving their own.

The Russians are always very willing to learn and will always pick the brains of foreigners if they think they will be of any help to them in their own difficulties. For example, I teach mathematics, and I was always being

invited to talk to other groups of mathematics teachers in Moscow to explain my methods and to exchange experiences.

A relatively small percentage of children go to school after fifteen, though there is the option of keeping on till you are eighteen and reaching university standard. I should say that about two per cent reach that standard.

CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN MUST NOT WORK

Young children may not work till they are sixteen, and then from sixteen to eighteen only part-time. That was in peacetime; but now, because of the war, the rules are somewhat relaxed, and I think they can go to work when they are sixteen. But normally most boys and girls between fifteen and eighteen go into technical or factory schools. If it is an engineering school they will do three or four hours' academic work a day and then five hours' practical work in the factory. Then when they have finished their three years at the technical school they are qualified workers in the factory—fully skilled workers. But the point is: they are carrying on with their academic education at the same time as they are learning their trade.

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT AMAZING

The Russians—in the big cities, at any rate—in their one type of school, their universal school, are getting a general standard of development at the age of fifteen which I personally think compares more than favourably with our own fifteen-year-olds in our secondary schools. And you have got to remember that the Russians have only had compulsory schooling of any kind for little more than twenty years. I found the intellectual development of the quite average young Russian worker simply amazing—even from our own standards—and I think that is because their general syllabus in the schools includes a very wide study of literature and cultural subjects as well as utilitarian ones.

The academic work in a Soviet school occupies only a part of the day. The rest of the time the school is turned into a kind of club, and groups are organized in any subject which the children wish to pursue. In our school we had groups in drama, singing, dancing, gymnastics, sports, airplane building, scenery-making, painting, sculpture, puppetry, and several others. The leaders for these groups are specially engaged and paid by the school—they are not connected with the academic side—and the only obligation a child has on joining a group is to remain until the particular job undertaken is completed—until the play is produced or the airplane finished.

In this way Soviet children get many opportunities of developing their technical skill and their æsthetic taste. If a child shows special aptitude for music or art the school can send him or her to the local music or art school for afternoon lessons, or if he or she is interested in technical subjects the child will spend several afternoons a week at the local technical centres where there are fully equipped workshops under the supervision of a specialist in wood or metal work.

In the villages there were very few schools before the Revolution, but now most of them have built one; and the æsthetic and technical developments here depend a great deal on the actual teachers. In the winter the cultural life in the villages is very often shared with the grown-ups as well, because while the snow is on the ground they often can't carry on with their agricultural work. In this way you see there is scope for the development of the peasant arts and crafts.

The Russians believe in criticism and self-criticising on a constructive basis. Actually at my school I hated it at first; then after a while I began to realise its value and I thought to myself: 'After all, it is good, it is very salutary—like a cold bath!' There was absolutely no malice at all behind their criticism—it was done in a very friendly spirit, and I think the whole basis of the thing was co-operation and not competition. We used to have regular meetings to discuss our work and our methods; and any weakness of the teacher was discussed too. I remember early on one of the American men who taught English said: 'I've been having trouble with my class. Can you help me?' I was astonished. Several of the other teachers gave him their helpful suggestions. The principal himself would come and sit in a class day after day in order to find out where a weakness lay, and he would discuss it at great length after each lesson with the teachers until the teacher was able to find a solution to his problem.

But the fact that you can criticise people—and this applies also to Soviet factories—means that you can get along with them far better than you would if you felt you wanted to criticise but couldn't express it.

There is naturally always the possibility of a clash, and if it comes to the point where you and your colleagues cannot get on, then some adjustment has to be made. There is a trade union organization which functions in every school, and it exists to try to help you to overcome such difficulties. As a matter of fact, one of our American staff did leave while I was there. He went to teach in the university, and actually he preferred it and found it more interesting. And although he couldn't get on at an ordinary school he made good at the university.

Obviously you could see the whole political basis of the Soviet Union permeating right through their teaching in the schools—even in their mathematical problems. But in their moral, their ethical teaching, they taught the children about the international brotherhood of children all over the world—to be courteous to their neighbour, to respect social or public property, to respect their own school buildings, not to carve the tables or write on the walls, because they were their own and they should look after them. They were taught to look after the older people because they had had terribly hard lives, and because through them the children had all these advantages. That was their ethical training—and that I personally consider is just the sort of teaching necessary for a child. —(*BBC. Home Service broadcast.*)

MEAHJI

MEAHJI isn't a smart soldier. He's only a little over five feet, and one of his shoulders is higher than the other, and the sides of his face don't match. Dirt seems to be attracted to him, and to stick, like flies to a fly-paper. And there's usually a hole somewhere, or a button off, or something torn—and sometimes all three at once. Meahji's companions laugh at him, and he knows that; people have always laughed at him: it is nothing new. His drill is frightful, and the N.C.Os. shout at him, but there's nothing new in that either: for years people have been shouting at him. That's Meahji: no credit to his section on parade, and a man who's quite used to being shouted at and laughed at.

He joined the Army because he thought he was going to like it, and he wasn't wrong; he's not unhappy in the Army and never has been (in spite of the fact that he has his difficulties, and makes them for others). For although the others may find him a figure of fun which he is, he is certainly not unpopular with them; in fact they respect him.

And this is quite the first time in his life that anything like that has happened to Meahji. On the whole the past hasn't been easy. First he was a fireman on a ship, but there were difficulties at home; his wife dead, he married again, his second wife died—he renounced the sea then and earned his living as a coolie at Chittagong and married a third time—which alone shows that he is man of courage.

People laughed at the little Chittagong coolie and sometimes abused him; his was a life unlikely to increase a man's self-respect. The war came, and that gave to many men the chance to find themselves, and to find a new self-respect.

It gave that chance to Meahji, and he was not slow in taking it. He found that the Indian Engineers were requiring recruits, offered himself, was accepted.

His knowledge of ships made him potentially suitable for military Docks Operating, and he underwent a technical course, and a course of military training (but Meahji is *not* a smart soldier)—he duly passed out as a Sapper-Stevedore.

He liked his new trade, and was immediately good at it; before long he was promoted from Grade III to Grade II. He was posted to an Indian Docks Operating Company and found himself on operational duties not far from the theatre of war. Meahji was, so to speak, in action.

He isn't a smart soldier. He's only a little over five feet, and one of his shoulders is higher than the other, and the sides of his face don't match. But you ought to see him now that his company is working in the Port: Meahji acting as hatchwayman, directing the soldiers who drive the winches, acting as liaison between the soldiers on the quay, small dark figures in the glare of the cluster-lights, and those toiling in the hold of the ship. You ought to see him guiding the tanks and lorries, helpless monsters, as they swing up from the distant ground, clear of the cables and ropes which perilously thread this strange twilight, down into the ship's belly with perhaps only a few inches to spare. It's not an easy job that Meahji does, and they don't laugh at him then or shout at him either. It's he who does the shouting, and they who listen and do as he orders.

Look at his face, his funny face, and you'll see how happy he is; and that's because he's found something that he can do, and do well. And something that's vitally important. Struggling blindly through life for thirty years, fighting always not to be swept aside into the rubbish heap, Meahji is in demand now. And it's not merely an employer who needs him. It's India herself who needs him. So he's fully a man at last.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

24TH JUNE.—Between 400 and 500 Royal Air Force planes were engaged in attacks on targets in Holland and Northern France. Operations extended from Flushing to Cherbourg Penninsula. Oil storage tanks and docks at Flushing were hit. The airfield at Manpertus near Cherbourg was bombed. Other targets were the Marshalling yards at Fort Rouge and the Abbeville airfield Squadrons of United States Air Force made sweeps over Belgium and Holland in support of the Royal Air Force bombing mission.

Describing the Ruhr raids, the German radio said: "The battle simply goes beyond human description. Nobody who has not seen it with his own eyes can have even a faint notion of it."

Enemy aircraft made an attack on Hull. Damage was caused and there were casualties including some people killed.

An urgent warning by the Allied High Command to the Netherlands people of heavier air raids in future on war factories in the Netherlands was broadcast by radio Orange.

Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India, informed the House of Commons, that the possibility of bringing representatives of the Fourth Indian Division to Britain was being considered.

A German frontier report to the *London Times* stated that the ex-President of the Reichsbank, Dr. Schacht, was under house arrest at his estate at Lindow near Berlin.

25TH JUNE.—American heavy bombers attacked the important German industrial area of Ellerfeld, the western half of Wuppeatal.

The Royal Air Force carried out offensive operations over France and Belgium. Ten German fighters were destroyed.

His Majesty the King returned to England after his North African tour.

26TH JUNE.—The Royal Air Force continued the offensive against the Ruhr with a heavy attack on Bochum—Gelsenkirchen district. Two enemy fighters were destroyed.

Captain Harold Balfour, Under Secretary for Air, said: "The battle of the Ruhr is the quickest way of hitting at the heart of Germany's production."

27TH JUNE.—Aircraft of the bomber command laid mines in Axis waters and attacked objectives in west and north-west Germany. Airfields in Northern France were also attacked and two enemy planes destroyed.

28TH JUNE.—The Royal Air Force were over Germany. American heavy bombers attacked France.

The official balance-sheet of German railways for 1942 disclosed that damage estimated at £50 millions was sustained by the railways owing to the Royal Air Force and Red Air Force onslaughts.

According to an Ankara report to New York, Hitler had ordered a large part of Germany's U-boat fleet to return to their German and Italian bases ready for an attack by the Allied invasion fleet.

A communique by the Admiralty and Air Ministry stated: "It is known that not less than 400 Axis war ships, supply ships and small craft have been sunk or damaged by mines laid in European waters".

Mr. Ernest Bavin, Minister of Labour, said that Britain without the Allies was producing more aircraft than the whole of Germany could produce.

29TH JUNE.—Aircraft of the bomber command attacked Cologne. Bombs were also dropped on Hamburg and mines were laid in enemy waters.

The Germans shelled the Straits of Dover area. An enemy convoy was attacked in the Straits of Dover.

30TH JUNE.—Mr. Churchill, speaking at Guildhall, said: "We demand from the Nazis, Fascists and the Japanese unconditional surrender. Their will-power to resist must be completely broken and they must yield themselves absolutely to our justice and mercy."

German troops were transferred from Central Germany and the East to meet invasion threats in western and southern Europe.

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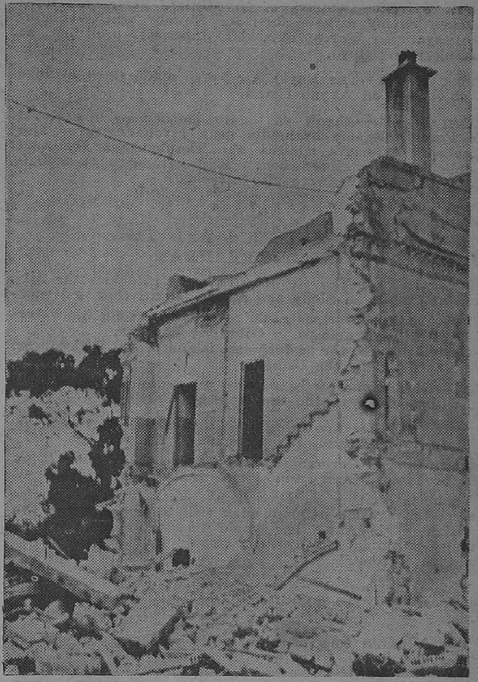
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

24TH JUNE.—Lieutenant-General Henry H. Arnold, Chief of the United States Army Air Forces, told the Civil Service Committee of the House of Representatives, that the United States Army airforces were to be increased by 115,000 new planes during the coming fiscal year.



ALGIERS CONVENT WHERE fifteen NUNS WERE KILLED BY NAZI BOMBS.—When German dive-bombers raided the North African port of Algiers on April 17, fifteen Catholic sisters perished at their prayers as the bombs demolished this convent-orphanage. The fifteen who died and three sisters who were severely wounded remained behind to pray when the raid started while other nuns led 60 orphans from the building to safety in an air raid shelter. Among the victims was Mother Superior Marie Duval, who had been at the convent for 31 years. Gen. Henri Honore Giraud, Military and Civil Commander-in-Chief of French North and West Africa, awarded Mother Duval the French Legion of Honour posthumously, stating: "On April 17, 1943, she was a victim of German barbarism, as were fourteen of her sisters." This picture was radio-photoed from North Africa to the United States.

25TH JUNE.—Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, told a press conference that there was nothing to substantiate the reports that Italy had made peace overtures to the United Nations.

27TH JUNE.—Mr. J. E. Davies, former United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union, said that the attempts of Axis leaders to sow suspicion in Russia of other Allied countries and of Russia in other Allied countries must not be tolerated.

There was an air raid alert in San Francisco.

28TH JUNE.—President Roosevelt signed the largest Naval Appropriation Bill in America providing approximately 33,000 million dollars for the fiscal year starting on July 1. Five thousand million dollars of the total amount is to provide the Navy with additional 27,000 planes.

29TH JUNE.—The British High Commissioner in Canada, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, said that at least 14 Axis submarines had been sunk in the last two weeks. "We had a dead submarine served up for breakfast every day for the past fortnight."

Captain Leland Lovett of the Public Relations Department of the United States Navy said that May was "the finest month" in overseas shipping and the sinking of U-boats.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

25TH JUNE.—A particularly successful action took place in the Kuban valley when severe casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Attacks were made on Japanese positions in the Kalemyo area and Akyab.

26TH JUNE.—American heavy bombers attacked enemy installations in Mandalay, Kanbyu, Kinu and Shweli bridge.

27TH JUNE.—Bombers of the United States air force attacked enemy targets north of Shwebo and Kanbalu. The Royal Air Force attacked Japanese positions at Indainggyi Kalemyo.

28TH JUNE.—The Royal Air Force made three attacks on objectives on Akyab island.

29TH JUNE.—Akyab was again bombed by the Royal Air Force. Enemy hutments near Myohaung were also attacked. Offensive against the Thanbyuzayat railroad installations was intensified. Railroad yards at Pyinamana and Sagaing were also attacked.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

24TH JUNE.—The Royal Air Force attacked the airfield at Comiso in Sicily and Spezia on the Golf of Genoa.

The German Overseas radio reported a strong concentration of Allied warships in Gibraltar harbour.

Castello Rosso, the easternmost island of the Dodecanese, was evacuated by the Italians.

A British submarine bombarded the radio location station on Salina island in the Lipari group north of Sicily.

25TH JUNE.—According to unconfirmed Hungarian reports, Sgr. Mussolini was seriously ill.

According to German military circles, the Eighth Army had been withdrawn from Africa and sent to Syria.

Goebbels writing in *Das Reich* said: "The Anglo-American invasion attempt may well be a prelude to the decision of the war. The Anglo-American powers possess enough shipping and armed forces to land at any given point in Europe."

26TH JUNE.—Ten German divisions were moved into northern Italy to guard the approches to the Brenner Pass.

Two hundred tons of high explosives and incendiary bombs smothered a train, a ferry terminus, docks and marshalling yards at Messina.

27TH JUNE.—Newspapers in Rome emphasized that the British and Americans were on the point of completing their preparations in the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Near East to attempt an attack on southern European territory.

28TH JUNE.—It was revealed that practically all the large towns of South Italy had been evacuated.

According to a German report, United States battleships had reached the Mediterranean and joined the British fleet there.

The Royal Air Force attacked Naples and the United States Air Force the airfields at Eleusis and Hassani near Athens. The Gerbiri airfield in Sicily was raided.

29TH JUNE.—One hundred Flying Fortresses raided Leghoon. Oil tanks were set on fire. The Royal Air Force attacked factories and railway yards at Licata in Sicily. The Comiso airfield was also attacked.

An Axis supply ship was sunk in the Strait of Messina by a Polish submarine.

The Paris radio said that the Axis powers had massed 250 divisions along the European coast to resist Allied invasion.

Reuter's special correspondent wrote: "Anglo-American invasion armies have got sensational surprises for the Germans."

30TH JUNE.—The German Radio cited July 3 as the latest invasion date.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

25TH JUNE.—There was bitter hand to hand fighting south-west of Vilikie Lukie. The German radio admitted that the Red Army had broken into the main German defence line.

26TH JUNE.—Soviet troops made several breaches in the main German lines at south-east of Orel, north of Orel and west of Velikie Lukie. Five hundred German planes were destroyed in Soviet raids. Twelve out of the 24 German planes that attempted to raid Leningrad were shot down.

27TH JUNE.—M. Stalin, in a message to President Roosevelt, said: "Victory will be achieved all the sooner when we hammer the enemy with our joint and co-ordinated blows from the west and east."

Soviet long-range aircraft raided the railway stations at Briansk and Navlya. A large number of German planes were destroyed.

28TH JUNE.—There was a flare-up on the Donetz and Kuban front.

It was revealed that Soviet guerillas had killed about 300,000 Axis troops, including 30 generals in the past two years.

29TH JUNE.—According to the *Red Star*, in the first 15 days of June, the Germans suffered big losses in attempts to bomb the approaches to Leningrad.

Soviet bombers attacked the railway station of Orsha and Taman town. Bombs were dropped on dumps and troop concentrations. Numerous fires were started.

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SHIPPING

26TH JUNE.—The United States submarine *R-12* was lost.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

24TH JUNE.—Nazi terror in Poland was intensified. Eighteen hundred persons, mostly from among the intelligentsia, were arrested.

28TH JUNE.—The Algiers radio said that 50,000 French hostages had been shot or guillotined in France since 1942.

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THE FAR EAST

24TH JUNE.—The "no confidence" vote against Mr. Curtin's Labour Government was rejected by a majority of one—27 against the opposition's 26 votes. Mr. Curtin informed the House of Representatives that he would seek dissolution of the Commonwealth Parliament.

Allied Liberators hit a Japanese cruiser and a merchantman in the Macassar Strait. A Japanese submarine was sunk 40 miles off the mouth of the Columbia river.

Over 1,000 Japanese troops were killed when a large Japanese transport hit a Chinese mine and sank in the Yangtse river.

25TH JUNE.—Chinese troops captured the Japanese stronghold of Tiko in Eastern Honan. They occupied the town of Yangtiehling.

26TH JUNE.—It was revealed in the United States official figures, that Japanese planes were being destroyed at the rate of eight daily.

27TH JUNE.—The German radio reported that the Japanese were tightening up A.R.P. measures fearing that more United States air raids were imminent.

The Japanese News Agency reported that the Japanese had completed tests on large ships made entirely of rubber.

American planes raided Kiska.

Allied bombers raided Rabaul.

28TH JUNE.—According to an American source of information, the Japanese were withdrawing from the Pacific.

Chinese troops hurled back the Japanese who attacked positions north-east of Hangchaw.

Chinese "puppet" troops serving under Japanese officers, mutinied and surrendered to General Chiang Kai-Shek's forces.

29TH JUNE.—Eighteen Japanese planes attempted to raid Darwin of which two were shot down and four destroyed. Allied air craft raided the Laha airfield.

Mr. A. S. Drakeford, Commonwealth Air Minister, said: "Allied aircraft covering over 300,000 square miles of north-western Australia, destroyed 44, probably destroyed 10 and damaged 16 Axis aircraft during the month of May—a record bag."

The United States Navy Department stated that United States submarines sank 8 enemy ships and damaged 3 others in the Pacific and Far Eastern waters.

It was reported that America may launch an invasion of Kiska following up the air blows on the island.

30TH JUNE.—American troops landed on Rendova island in New Georgia group of the Solomon Islands.

It was reported that the Chinese held the greater part of the City of Onchihkou in their hands.

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